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STATIN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Patent Office Site

A Feb. 20 editorial said that the Government has obviously decided that too many patents are being granted, and that a sinister plot is afoot to inconvenience inventors by moving the Patent Office to a rural setting on the periphery of a circle 40 miles in radius drawn about Washington.

Would it surprise you to learn that if its employes were housed according to GSA's recommended minimum standards, the Patent Office would occupy the entire Commerce Building? Where in the District would one put a new Patent Office building of this size?

Patent Office personnel live throughout the Washington area. Some will be rather seriously inconvenienced when the Office moves to the other side of town. Nevertheless, the Patent Office Society (the professional society of patent examiners) nearly two years ago endorsed a move to Langley, Va., in the interests of the critical and immediate need for a new building. They disregarded personal inconvenience. The majority of patent attorneys, local and distant, have likewise endorsed the overwhelming need for a new building and have no transitory personal inconvenience in the least regard.

RALPH D. HAKSLIE,
Arlington.

The question may well be asked, "Why move the Patent Office 40 miles from its present site?" This question is particularly pertinent when some 400 acres of land adjacent to the CIA is owned by the Department of Commerce, is about seven miles from downtown Washington, adjacent to the new Cabin John Bridge, is accessible from downtown Washington on an average of 15 minutes, and is quite close to the new circumferential highway and the Dulles Airport.

It is highly desirable that there be as little impact as possible on present personnel in the Patent Office and those expecting to join it. Personnel of the Patent Office who are [illegible] engineers, scientists and lawyers, if lost to the Patent Office because of a major [illegible] principle this most important branch of government serving the Patent Office — [illegible] distance away could very easily cause these highly skilled people to leave the Government, and it would also seriously disrupt the livelihood of many attorneys specializing in patent law.

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